

What is claimed is:

1. A latch assembly adapted for use with a vehicle including a tire, the tire having a rim with at least one aperture, the latch assembly comprising, in combination:
 - a tire carrier having a first flexible member and a winch, the first flexible member having one end attached to the winch and another end detachably attached to the tire;
 - a second flexible member having one end and an other end, the one end connected to the vehicle and the other end connected to the tire; and
 - a locking member attached to the second flexible member, the locking member being disposed in the aperture to detachably connect to the rim, the locking member is one of a clamp member and a hook member, the locking member and the second flexible member preventing the tire from detaching from the vehicle when one of the first flexible member and the winch fails.
2. The latch assembly according to claim 1 wherein the clamp member including a latch member having a support plate and a latching member, the support plate having a longitudinal portion, the latching member having a longitudinal section, the rim being clamped between the longitudinal portion of the support plate and the longitudinal section of the latching member.
3. The latch assembly according to claim 1 wherein the clamp member including a latch member having a support plate and a latching member, the support plate being rotatably connected to the latching member.
4. The latch assembly according to claim 1 wherein the clamp member including an eyebolt having a portion attached to the second flexible member, a longitudinal portion disposed in the at least one aperture and a fastener threadably engaged to the longitudinal portion, the fastener and the longitudinal portion being disposed in the aperture, the fastener connecting the rim to the second flexible member.
5. The latch assembly according to claim 1 wherein the clamp member including a wing nut member having a portion connected to the second flexible member, a longitudinal

portion with a threaded section disposed in the at least one aperture, a wing nut threadably engaging the threaded section and a latching plate adjacent the longitudinal portion, the wing nut and latching plate being secured to the rim.

6. The latch assembly according to claim 1 wherein the hook member including a arcuate portion and lock portion pivotally attached to the arcuate portion, the rim having two apertures, the hook member being disposed in at least one of the two apertures.

7. The latch assembly according to claim 1 wherein the clamp member including a toggle member having a longitudinal portion, a threaded portion, a base plate and threaded fastener, the longitudinal portion having a pair of extending wings, the base plate having a portion forming an plate aperture, the threaded portion being inserted into the plate aperture to sandwich the rim between the base plate and the pair of wings.

8. The latch assembly according to claim 1 wherein the first flexible member having a first load carrying capability, the second flexible member having a second load carrying capability, the second load capability being greater than the first load carrying capability.

9. The latch assembly according to claim 1 wherein the first flexible member having a first diameter, the second flexible member having a second diameter, the second diameter being one of bigger than the first diameter, the same as the first diameter and smaller than the first diameter.

10. The latch assembly according to claim 1 wherein the clamp member including a latch assembly having a rim support plate and a latch member connected to the plate, the rim having a web portion, the clamp member being disposed in the at least one aperture to clamp the web portion between the rim support plate and the latch member.

11. A latch assembly adapted for use with a vehicle including a tire having a rim with at least one aperture, the latch assembly comprising, in combination:

a tire carrier;

a flexible member having one end attached to one of the vehicle and the tire carrier and another end; and

a locking member attached to the another end of the flexible member, the locking member being disposed in the aperture to detachably connect the flexible member to the rim, the locking member is one of a clamp member and a hook member.

12. The latch assembly according to claim 11 wherein the rim having a portion forming at least a second aperture, the aperture having one of an elliptical shape, an arcuate shape and a multi-sided shape.
13. The latch assembly according to claim 11 wherein the clamp member is one of a latch member, an eye bolt member, a wing nut member and a toggle bolt member.
14. The latch assembly according to claim 11 wherein the clamp member including a latch member having a support plate a latching member, the clamp member being disposed in at least one aperture to detachably attach the tire to the flexible member.
15. The latch assembly according to claim 11 wherein the tire carrier having a winch, a winch flexible member and a tire plate.
16. The latch assembly according to claim 11 wherein the rim having a non-central aperture and the locking member being disposed in the non-central aperture.
17. The latch assembly according to claim 11 wherein the clamp member clamping the rim to secure the tire to the vehicle.
18. The latch assembly according to claim 11 wherein the hook member being disposed in at least one aperture to detachably secure the tire to the vehicle.

19. The latch assembly according to claim 11 wherein the clamp member including a latch member having a support plate and a latching member, the support plate having a least one off-set section, the support plate and the latch member producing an audible signal when the web portion of the rim is clamped between the support plate and the latch member.
20. The latch assembly according to claim 11 wherein the rim having a non-central aperture, the hook member being detachably engaged to the rim through the non-central aperture.